

50 Years of History

Philippines

Name of organization: Philippine Association of Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapists (PAOMPT)

Year organization started: 2014

Member of IFOMPT since: 2022

Key influencers of OMPT through the years: In 2014, Dr. Andrei Altavas (DSc, FAAOMPT) from Florida visioned an OMPT Organization in the Philippines with a goal of advancing OMPT practice within international standards. He presented his idea to colleagues, Dr. Ulysses Juntilla (DPT, FAAOMPT) and Dr. Lawrence Ramiscal (DPT, FAAOMPT) Orthopedic Manual PTs from Columbia, South Carolina, New Jersey respectively.

Developments over the years: In 2014, PAOMPT By-Laws were developed and PAOMPT Founding Officers and Board of Directors (Trustees) were nominated. In 2015, PAOMPT was founded through the office of the Dean of Velez College of Physical Therapy, Romel Cabazor. The founding Philippine officers were appointed. In 2015, PAOMPT became a registered Non-Profit Organization and the Philippine Physical Therapy Association (PPTA) formally recognized PAOMPT as Special Interest Group of PPTA for Manual Orthopedic Physical Therapy. In 2016, PAOMPT was officially inaugurated at its headquarters at Velez College of Physical Therapy and was presented a SIG Certificate by PPTA President Royson Mercado. In 2017, IFOMPT formally recognized PAOMPT as a RIG. The first PAOMPT National Convention was held at University of Santo Tomas in Manila. In 2020, the first cohort of OMPT diploma students commenced the standardized curriculum with IFOMPT standards. In 2022, PAOMPT (current president, Dr. Lily Bautista) received an MO status.

Major changes or challenges in the last 50 years: Celebrating 59 years, the physical therapy in the Philippines is still young. The national association was founded in 1964 alongside the Philippine medical association especially rehabilitation medicine. With this long standing relationship comes challenges in PT scope of practice. The PT practice act remains unchanged since 1964. Another challenge is that specialization is a slow process and the recognition of PT as MSK expert is inadequate. With PAOMPT leading the advancement of PT into specialized practice, SIG within the national association has started to emerge within the last decade. Salary standardization is another challenge for the profession in the country.

Current status and challenges: PAOMPT as a national association was founded with a mission to advance the Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapy practice in the Philippines and in the areas of education and research while partnering with domestic and global associations in promoting the standards of practice. This mission comes without challenges.

The future of the organization: PAOMPT is dedicated to:

- Develop and update professional and post-professional education guidelines and continuing education programs relevant to the practice of OMPT.
 - Act as resource for the practice of OMPT in the Philippines.
 - Promote research in OMPT and facilitate evidence-based practice within members.
 - Developing communication among OMPT clinical instructors including mentoring.
 - Serve as a resource group for matters involving education of PTs in manual therapy.
 - Promote mechanisms for all MSK PT clinicians/academicians to participate in PAOMPT.
 - Promote entry level application of evidence and research skills in clinical practice.
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