

## 50 Years of History

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### Saudi Arabia

**Name of organisation:** Saudi Musculoskeletal Physical Therapy Group (SMPTG)

**Year organisation started:** 2018

**RIG of IFOMPT since:** 2021

#### Key influencers of OMPT through the years:

While information on specific individuals is limited, the key influencers of OMPT in Saudi Arabia can be identified through their contributions:

- **Pioneering therapists:** Individuals like Mr. Osama Jan and Dr. Ali M. Alshami trained abroad and introduced OMPT techniques in the early 2000s.
- **International speakers:** Educational programs featuring renowned instructors from established OMPT schools (Manual Concepts, Maitland, Mulligan) played a vital role in knowledge dissemination.
- **National speakers:** Therapists trained abroad or by international speakers became national leaders, offering courses and workshops.
- **Academic leaders:** Faculty members advocating for integrating OMPT principles into university curriculums are shaping the future workforce. Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University is a leading example.

#### Development over the years:

- Growth in SMPTG membership suggests rising interest.
- Universities are gradually integrating OMPT into curriculums.
- A growing body of research is emerging.

#### Major changes or challenges in the last 50 years:

- **Limited qualified practitioners:** A lack of university programs in OMPT creates a shortage of skilled therapists.
- **Standardization and regulation:** Clearer standards would ensure consistent quality of care.

#### Current status and challenges:

The current state of OMPT in Saudi Arabia is promising, but still faces some hurdles due to its newness.

#### The future of the organisation:

The SMPTG aims to elevate the profession and improve public well-being through:

- Promoting OMPT principles and techniques.
  - Expanding educational opportunities in musculoskeletal physical therapy, including OMPT.
  - Achieving recognition for OMPT as a specialized healthcare field.
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