
50 Years of History

SLOVENIA

Name of organisation: Slovenian Association of Physiotherapists, Subgroup for Manual Therapy

Year organisation/s started: SAP, member of WP 1995

RIG of IFOMPT since: 2014

Key influencers of OMPT through the years:

The first influencer of OMPT was the original president of the subgroup, Matthias Klauser. Soon the board recognized the importance of being a part of an international family of manual therapists and Barbara Pantar as a board member and afterwards the president, made first contact with IFOMPT. She provided a base for further OMPT development in our country. We would point out that Barbara Pantar still is the driving force behind the development of the OMPT certification in Slovenia.

Development over the years:

From the beginning the main aim of the manual therapy subgroup was to create opportunities for physiotherapists to become highly qualified in the field of neuromusculoskeletal therapy, following the IFOMPT recommendations and guidelines. It is still committed to develop and promote high educational standards. The main activity of the subgroup was integrating evidence based physical therapy approaches into continuous postgraduate professional development for physiotherapists, such as Maitland concept, pain management education and medical screening. The need to become a part of an international professional organisation became essential as was the necessity to obtain accredited qualifications. Therefore, we applied to IFOMPT membership and were accepted in 2014 as a registered interest group. Since then, the delegate and contact person has been Barbara Pantar.

Major changes or challenges in the last 50 years:

Major changes are in implementing critical clinical reasoning, patient-centered approach and best research evidence into practice, integration of biomechanical models with a broader biopsychosocial approach, addressing skepticism and critical thinking, promoting diversity and inclusion, adapting to technological advancements, and embracing a more holistic understanding of patient care.

Current status and challenges: The current status we face is development of the 2nd degree master program with OMPT certification at the Faculty of Health Sciences in Izola with strong support of the associate dean, doc. Dr. Matej Voglar. The challenge lies in the implementation of the OMPT program into the faculty curriculum and obtaining national recognition and implementation of OMPT specialist into the public health care. The current education program, a draft curriculum and some possible solutions have been recently presented and evaluated by IFOMPT. In the light of the feedback given by our mentor Mrs. Karen Beeton the program is evolving.

Future of the organization:

The future is bright and clear, following our main aim of implementing OMPT educational program and clearly defining competences for physiotherapists as a highly qualified profession for MSK management in our health care system.
