

## 50 Years of History

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### Switzerland

**Name of organisation:** SVOMP (Schweizerische Verband für Orthopädische Muskuloskelettale Physiotherapie)

**Year organisation started:** 1989

**Member of IFOMPT since:** 1992

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

Early years: Freddy Kaltenborn, Olav Evjenth, Geoffrey Maitland, Fritz Zahnd, Gisela Rolf, Peter Welsh. Later years: Jutta Affolter, Hannu Luomajoki, Pieter Westerhuis, Elly Hengeveld, and Hugo Stam.

From 1978, Switzerland had two training programs (Maitland Concept and Kaltenborn-Evjenth concept) and from 1984/5 two main organisations, Arbeitsgruppe Manuelle Therapie (AMT) the Schweizerische Verband für Manipulative Physiotherapie (SVMP) respectively. In 1986, AMT and SVMP joined forces to establish the Swiss umbrella organization, **SVOMP** which became the Member Organisation of IFOMPT. In 1999, SVOMP integrated the two approaches and successfully conducted the first joint OMT education program.

**Developments over the years:** In 2006, physiotherapy education in Switzerland became university based. In 2010, SVOMP's community based OMT program was integrated into the master's program at Zurich University of Applied Sciences, led by Hannu Luomajoki. Today, Switzerland has three universities offering master's programs in manual and neuromusculoskeletal physiotherapy with programs in 2020 at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland led by Gianpiero Capra, and in 2021, Bern University of Applied Science led by Amir Tal.

**Changes or challenges in the last 50 years:**

The initial challenge faced by SVOMP was to build one organisation out of an umbrella organisation, achieved in 1997. Another challenge emerged in 2001 with a change in the law in Bern prohibiting physiotherapists, including OMPT-trained professionals, to treat patients without prescription from medical doctors or chiropractors. Despite efforts supported by IFOMPT, SVOMP was unable to reverse this decision. Another challenge was the new territory of monitoring master's programs. In 2018, SVOMP installed an educational board to monitor programs. In 2020 and 2021 two new curricula were monitored before acceptance by IFOMPT.

**Current status and challenges:** Presently, curricula from three universities have gained acceptance from IFOMPT. The current challenge lies in providing optimal support to these universities to enhance and optimize their educational programs further.

**Future of the organisation:** SVOMP aims to expand its membership and attract more members and continue to maintain and enhance the high-quality standards. SVOMP aims to consolidate its position within the healthcare professionals as a key player in manual and musculoskeletal therapy. Collaboration with other partners should be prioritized, with the goal of increasing political influence to advocate for the interests of manual and musculoskeletal physiotherapy in Switzerland. It is envisioned that SVOMP can play a significant role in shaping the development of first-contact practitioner roles for neuromusculoskeletal manual physiotherapists in Switzerland.

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